

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 remain in the application made the subject of the Office Action to which this Response is made. Claims 33-51 are canceled as a result of an earlier requirement for restriction. In this Response claims 2-3, 10-13, 18-20 and 24-26 are withdrawn. Claims remaining in the application are independent claim 1 (amended), 4 (original), 5 (amended to adjust claim dependency), 6-7 (original), 8 (amended to adjust claim dependency), 9 (original), 14-16 (original), 17 (corrected dependency), 21-23 (original), independent claim 27 (original), claims 28-30 (original), independent claim 31 (original) and 32 (original).

35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended correcting all objections mentioned by the examiner and accordingly claims dependent from claim 1 are also corrected. Claim 8 is corrected for proper antecedent. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claim 7 is corrected to eliminate a duplicate naming of one compound.

35 U.S.C. §102 (e)

Claims 1-2, 5, 13-17 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as anticipated by Johnston et al (U.S. Patent 6,323,285). Applicant believes the rejection under §102(e) may be a clerical error (Johnston issued November 27, 2001, more than a year before the present application was filed). Applicant treats the rejection as asserting a lack of novelty under §102(e) or §102(b), but observes the Office Action recitation of §102(e).

Claims 2, 5, 13-17 and 21 are claims dependant from claim 1. As respects claims subject to the instant rejection, claim 1 is amended in this Response, claims 2 and 13 are withdrawn and claim 17 is amended to correct dependency. The amendment of claim 1 implicitly amends all claims subject to the instant rejection that are dependent from claim 1 and not withdrawn. These are claims 5, 14-17 and 21.

Claims 1, as amended, distinguishes Johnston et al. The polyolefin components of Johnston all minimally require ethylene as a monomer of the polymers. Johnson's heteromorphic composition is the reaction product of (a) an ethylene/ α -olefin interpolymer backbone polymer of a certain density and (b) an ethylene homopolymer or ethylene/ α -olefin interpolymer of a higher density. Applicant's claim 1 as amended does not include either of these components of the Johnston composition as the polyolefin components. Johnston et al do not disclose nor suggest the composition of claim 1 in which the polyolefin components do not have ethylene as a monomer of the polymers; accordingly Johnston does not disclose the combinations of the claims 5, 14-17 and 21 dependent from claim 1. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection and allow Claims 1, 5, 14-17 and 21.

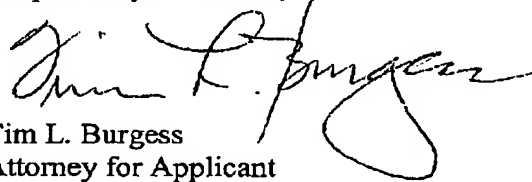
35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3-4, 6-12, 18-20 and 22-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Johnston et al (U.S. Patent 6,323,285) as applied to claims 1-2, 5, 13-17 and 21 by the Examiner and further in view of Kim et al. (U.S. Patent 6,921,792). As respects the claims 3-4, 6-12, 18-20 and 22-32 rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a), claims 3, 10-12, 18 and 19 are withdrawn because of the amendments made to claim 1. Thus claims 4, 6-9, 20 and 22-32 remain from the group rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The compositions set forth in claims 4, 6-9, 20 and 22-32 are not obvious based on Johnston et al (U.S. Patent 6,323,285) as applied to claims 1-2, 5, 13-17 and 21 by the Examiner and further in view of Kim et al. (U.S. Patent 6,921,792). Claims 4, 6-9, 20 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and do not have ethylene as a polyolefin monomer component as required by Johnston et al. Combination of Johnston et al. with Kim et al. does give the claimed compositions. Neither Johnston et al. or Kim et al. discloses a long chain branched homopolymer of propylene as a component of a thermoplastic composition as required in all claims remaining in this application, and the Examiner does not point out from the references how they might suggest such a thermoplastic composition. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 4, 6-9, 20 and 22-32.

To summarize, Johnston et al. does not disclose melt blended reaction compositions containing both linear and long chain branched polymers of propylene in combination with an elastomer, and neither Johnston et al. nor Kim et al. discloses a composition containing a branched long chained polypropylene. The Examiner is respectfully requested to allow claims 1, 4-9, 14-17, and 21-32

Respectfully submitted,



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